

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 03547 01 OF 02 270322Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
-----270326 064457 /70

O 270314Z FEB 77 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5979

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03547

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, UG
SUBJECT: U.S. CITIZENS IN UGANDA

REF: STATE 43656

FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR ELLERKMANN SENT BEFORE
RECEIPT IN KAMPALA OF FONOFF CABLE CONTAINING
CONTENTS REFTEL.

BEGIN TEXT.

"1. A SPOKESMAN OF GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED
TONIGHT THAT MEETING OF PRESIDENT AMIN WITH AMERICANS
IS NOW TO TAKE PLACE AT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ENTEBBE,
MONDAY 8 A.M. AND NOT CONFERENCE CENTRE 11 A.M.,
'BECAUSE 3000 PERSONS ARE INVITED AND CONFERENCE CENTRE
IS TOO SMALL FOR THEM'. AT THE SAME TIME MINISTRY
OF CULTURE REQUESTED CULTURAL DANCING GROUPS TO REPORT
BY 8 A.M. SAME MORNING. IN SAME NEWS IT WAS
REPEATED THAT AMIN WAS ASTONISHED TO HEAR THAT PRESIDENT
CARTER SAID THAT HE - AMIN - WILL TAKE AMERICANS AS
HOSTAGES, AN IDEA WHICH NEVER CROSSED HIS MIND. HE
HAD HIS OWN IDEAS HOW TO HANDLE AFFAIR AND WOULD NOT
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PAGE 02 BONN 03547 01 OF 02 270322Z

NEED ADVICE OF 'IMPERIALIST MASTERS'.

2. FOR CHANGE OF VENUE EMBASSY SO FAR HAS NO
CONVINCING EXPLANATION. CONFERENCE CENTRE CAN HOLD
CLOSE TO 3000 PERSONS. IT ALSO IS NOT KNOWN, WHO
3000 INVITED PEOPLE ARE. IT COULD BE THAT AMIN
WISHES TO TELL AMERICANS ON SPOT, THAT WHOEVER CHOOSES

TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY CAN DO SO NOW, INVITING THEM TO BOARD A PLANE READY FOR DEPARTURE. IT IS RECALLED THAT UGANDA AIRLINE OWNS ONE C-130 AND ONE BOEING 707 BOTH FLOWN BY AMERICAN CREWS. SPECULATIONS THAT AMIN MIGHT TAKE AMERICANS AS HOSTAGES HAVE NO FOUNDATION IN ANY FACTS KNOWN HERE.

3. CONSIDERING ALL CIRCUMSTANCES KNOWN TO THIS EMBASSY, THIS EMBASSY MAINTAINS THAT NOTHING SERIOUS WILL HAPPEN TO AMERICANS ON MONDAY, IF SITUATION IS NOT ESCALATED UNTIL THEN, SUCH AS NEGATIVE, CRITICAL OR ACCUSING STATEMENTS BY US GOVERNMENT. ALSO FALSE REACTION OF INDIVIDUAL AMERICANS BEFORE OR DURING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MIGHT EFFECT PRESENT SITUATION WHICH IS CALM. I AM SUPPORTED IN MY ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION BY ARAB AND AFRICAN COLLEAGUES I SAW NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 26.

4. IT IS ASSUMED THAT PURPOSE OF MEETING WITH AMERICANS FOR AMIN IS TO GET MEMORANDUM FROM AMERICANS TO SHOW THAT COUNTRY IS CALM AND SAFE TO BE USED AS DOCUMENT AGAINST ALLEGATIONS FROM WESTERN COUNTRIES.

5. IT MIGHT BE IMPORTANT FOR JUDGING AMIN'S

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PAGE 01 BONN 03547 02 OF 02 270321Z
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
-----270328 064444 /70

O 270314Z FEB 77 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5980

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 03547

EXDIS

PRESENT STATE OF MIND TO KNOW, THAT ACCORDING TO A VERY RELIABLE SOURCE, AMIN REALLY BELIEVED (AND MIGHT STILL BELIEVE) IN AMERICAN MILITARY OPERATION IN ISRAELI-STYLE. ACCORDING TO SAME SOURCE AMIN SPENT

ALL OF LAST NIGHT AT AIRPORT WITH ARMED FORCES ALARMED
READY FOR ACTION 'TO RECEIVE AMERICANS IN COMBAT'.

6. FROM TALKS WITH MENTIONED COLLEAGUES THERE
SEEM TO EXIST TWO MOTIVES FOR AMIN'S SHOWDOWN WITH
UNITED STATES:

(A) AMIN WANTS TO DIVERT INTEREST OF WORLD
PUBLIC FROM KILLINGS IN UGANDA, ESPECIALLY OF
ARCHBISHOP LUWUM AND TWO MINISTERS.

(B) AMIN IS VERY HURT BY COMMENTS OF
AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND PRESIDENT CARTER ON
HAPPENINGS IN UGANDA BECAUSE HE HAD HOPED
VERY MUCH THAT NEW ADMINISTRATION WOULD
RE-OPEN US EMBASSY IN KAMPALA SOON. EVER
SINCE LAST YEAR'S ELECTION THROUGH FAVORABLE
COMMENTS AND FRIENDLY MESSAGES TO PRESIDENT CARTER
HE TRIED TO CHANGE AMERICAN ATTITUDE AND RECEIVED
NO REPLY OR REACTION. IN FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT HE WAS
CRITICIZED INSTEAD. A FACT HIS MIND DOES NOT UNDER-
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PAGE 02 BONN 03547 02 OF 02 270321Z

STAND AND THEREFORE MADE HIM ANGRY.
ELLERKMANN"

END TEXT
STOESSEL

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